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National/State News

The not-seasonally-adjusted Maine unemployment rate for June was 5.0 percent, down from 5.2 percent for May and up from 4.5 percent for June 2007. The unadjusted national rate was 5.7 percent for June, up from 5.2 percent for May and 4.7 percent for June 2007. Not-seasonally-adjusted June unemployment rates for Maine counties ranged from 3.9 percent for Cumberland County to 8.1 percent for Piscataquis and Washington counties. Not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine rose by 11,800 between May and June as the busy summer season approached. The largest gains were recorded by leisure and hospitality services, retail trade, construction, and professional and business services. Partially offsetting these gains, state government education and private educational services jobs fell as nonprofessional staff and work study students left post-secondary institutions at the ends of the school year.

The preliminary seasonally-adjusted June unemployment rate for Maine was 5.3 percent, down from 5.4 percent for May. The national unemployment rate for June was 5.5 percent.

Summary for Central District

June/May local Labor Market Area unemployment rates were as follows:
- Augusta unchanged at 4.7%;
- Belfast 5.4% from 5.6%;
- Boothbay Harbor 3.7% from 4.7%;
- Camden 4.2% from 4.5%;
- Rockland 4.4% from 4.5%;
- Saint George 4.1% from 4.0%;
- Skowhegan 7.1% from 8.0%;
- Waldoboro unchanged at 4.4%;
- Waterville unchanged at 5.4%.

Over the year resident employment was up in seven of the LMAs and down in the other two. The number of unemployed were up in six of the areas and down in the rest. The unemployment rates were down in five areas, unchanged in three and up in one.

Augusta Micropolitan Area Definition


Civilian Labor Force Trends

The local area unemployment rate remained at 4.7 percent in June. The number of residents employed grew by 590, and the number of unemployed increased...
Augusta Micropolitan
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by 20. The civilian labor force gained 600. Over the year unemployment was up by 260 from 1,810 in June 2007. The resident civilian labor force, and the number of resident employed was up over the year, by 300 and 40 respectively.

The highest monthly unemployment rate recorded here since new labor market area configurations became effective with January 2000 data was 5.8 percent in January 2004. The lowest monthly rate recorded for this area was 2.5 percent in August 2000. The highest recorded June rate was 4.7 percent in 2003 and 2008. The lowest June rate on record was 3.0 percent in 2000.

**CLOSINGS/ LAYOFFS**
(past 12 months)

Cives Steel Company closed their detailing office in Augusta, stating a lack of work. 15 people are employed at that site. (Kennebec Journal, July 23, 2008)

Nicolson & Ryan Jewelers closed their Augusta store, having operated on Water Street for more than 100 years. (Kennebec Journal, November 19, 2007)

Elm City Photo closed its Augusta shop in October, to focus on digital photo processing from the company’s home office in Waterville. (Kennebec Journal, October 19, 2007)

**EXPANSIONS**
(past 12 months)

At Augusta Crossing, Lowe’s Home Improvement, Best Buy, PetSmart, A.C. Moore, and Staples opened late in 2007, followed by Target in March 2008. (Kennebec Journal March 10, 2008 and other sources)

The Augusta CareerCenter re-located to 21 Enterprise Drive in January. The new building is next to the Central Maine Commerce Center. ([www.mainecareer-center.com](http://www.mainecareer-center.com) January 23, 2008)


FairPoint Communications completed an $800,000 expansion to its China call center, creating approximately 35 new jobs. The company closed 10 call centers nationwide and consolidated its operations into two sites. The 9,000 square-foot facility is Fairpoint’s largest. (Morning Sentinel, October 27, 2007).

Big Lots opened an Augusta store August 24, 2007. Stores of this size typically employ 20-30. During the grand opening the company donated $2,500 to the Gilbert Elementary School as a show of support for local educators. (Kennebec Journal, August 22, 2007)

**FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

Tractor Supply Co. was approved by the planning board for a new store on Civic Center Drive. (Kennebec Journal, July 24, 2008)

New construction proposals before the Augusta Planning Board include two additional office buildings to be built next to the Central Maine Commerce Center. The larger of the two would be a 51,000 square-foot single or double-story building with a new parking lot to accommodate 163 vehicles. The construction would conform to standards certified by the U.S. Green Building Council, and would be built on speculation with no confirmed tenant. The other building would be 6,000 square-feet and house a medi-
Economic Development
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cal office with additional office space. A 42-space parking lot would be included. (Kennebec Journal, March 11, 2008)

Hannaford Bros. will purchase Winthrop’s Mister Market, and construct a new 36,000 square-foot store on the site. While not guaranteed, most of the 80 current employees will likely be hired by Hannaford. (Kennebec Journal, January 17, 2008)

The U.S. Postal Service announced the site selection for a new post office to be built on Main Street in Winthrop. (Kennebec Journal, December 20, 2007)

The Maine Turnpike Authority announced that permits were in place for the construction of a $13.5 million service center and rest stop to be located in West Gardiner. The new “super service plaza” will be available to motorists traveling on the Maine Turnpike and Interstate 295. Anticipated opening should occur in December 2008. (Kennebec Journal, December 4, 2007)

Groundbreaking for Fieldstone Place, Augusta’s first large-scale housing development in decades, took place November 29, 2007. The 35-acre site will be developed in three phases, ultimately consisting of 55 lots of ½ acre and larger. The project is viewed by many as an important step in Augusta’s revitalization and efforts to attract a new generation of residents. (Kennebec Journal, November 29, 2007)

Hannaford Bros. Co. announced on September 19, 2007 plans for a 49,000 square-foot store that will be the first in the world to be platinum-certified by the U.S. Green Building Council. In building to Green Building Council standards, a company commits to design features such as photovoltaic panels, geothermal heating and cooling, high-efficiency refrigeration, energy efficient lighting, and a vegetation-topped roof. In addition, Hannaford hopes to recycle up to 95 percent of the existing building. (Kennebec Journal, Associated Press, September 20, 2007)

Hannaford Bros. Co. announced in August, 2007 plans to build a 36,000 square-foot store in South China. If built the store would employ about 100, and include a pharmacy, full-service butcher shop, produce and seafood departments, bakery, deli, and organic/natural foods. Hannaford’s proposal must be approved by the town planning board and receive the necessary permits. The company wants to begin work as soon as possible. (Kennebec Journal, August 16, 2007)

Construction is progressing on a new Walgreen’s Pharmacy at Memorial Circle in Augusta. (November 2007)

Belfast LMA

Area Definition

The Belfast Labor Market Area is comprised of Belfast, Belmont, Brooks, Freedom, Islesboro, Jackson, Knox, Liberty, Monroe, Montville, Morrill, Northport, Searsmont, Stockton Springs, Swanville, Thorndike, Unity, and Waldo.

The local area unemployment rate fell to 5.4 percent from 5.6 percent in May. Resident employment rose by 440 and the number of unemployed dropped by 10. The resident civilian labor force grew by 430.

Over the year resident employment was down 120 from 13,070 reported last June. The civilian labor force fell by 80, unemployment was up by 40, and the unemployment rate was up from the June 2007 figure of 5.0 percent.

The highest monthly unemployment rate recorded here since new labor market area configurations became effective with January 2000 data was 8.0 percent in February 2008 and the lowest was 2.6 percent in August 2000. The highest June unemp-
Belfast LMA continued from page 2

Employment rate recorded for this area was 5.4 percent in this year, while the lowest was 3.3 percent in 2000.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INSURED UNEMPLOYED

Thirteen percent of insured claimants were separated from construction, 17 percent were separated from manufacturing, 19 percent were separated from healthcare and social assistance, and 18 percent separated from retail trade. The remaining 33 percent came from other industries.

Fifty-one percent of the claimants were male. Forty-nine percent were the primary wage earners for their families, 35 percent lived alone, and 16 percent were secondary wage earners. Eighty-eight percent had at least a high school education and 35 percent had some post-secondary education. Sixty-two percent of the claimants said they were on a temporary layoff, 29 percent left their jobs voluntarily, and 9 percent were permanently laid off. Nine percent were veterans.

CLOSINGS/ LAYOFFS (past 12 months)

Mid-Coast Mental Health Center in Belfast and Rockland laid off 16 employees and modified the job duties of an additional seven in an effort to reduce a fiscal year 2008 projected budget shortfall of up to $800,000. (Mainebiz Daily, July 18, 2007)

EXPANSIONS (past 12 months)

athenahealth acquired part of the former MBNA headquarters in Belfast for $6.1 million. athenahealth is headquartered in Watertown, MA., and was recently recognized by the Boston Business Journal as one of the 2007 Best Places to Work in Massachusetts. The company plans to create 100 jobs early in 2008, perhaps expanding to 600 within five years. athenahealth, Inc. is a provider of internet-based business services for physician practices. (MaineCoastNOW.com, February 21, 2008 and other sources)

FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The 378-acre Point Lookout conference facility acquired by Bank of America as part of their MBNA purchase, has been sold to Mr. John Erickson, CEO of Erickson Retirement Communities. The company owns and operates 20 continuing care retirement communities nationwide, and employs approximately 10,000. They also sponsor the Erickson School of Aging Studies, which will begin operating at Point Lookout by fall 2008. Erickson anticipates employing 50-60 at the site. Geographically situated in the Belfast labor market area, the business is expected to attract several thousand visitors annually to the Belfast-Camden region. (MaineCoastNOW.com, December 20, 2007)

Lowe’s Home Centers filed an application with the City of Belfast to build a 175,000 square-foot store on Searsport Avenue, in Belfast. The plans call for two additional unnamed tenants. (Bangor Daily News, January 25, 2008)

Boothbay Harbor LMA

Area Definition
The Boothbay Harbor LMA includes Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor, Edgecomb, and Southport.

Boothbay Harbor’s unemployment rate was down in June, at 3.7 percent from 4.7 percent in May. Resident employment rose by 820, and the number of unemployed fell to 10. The civilian labor force expanded by 820 to 5,260.
Boothbay Harbor LMA

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Over the year resident employment was up by 200, the civilian labor force was larger by 230 and the number of unemployed was up by 30. The unemployment rate was up from the June 2007 rate of 3.4 percent.

The highest monthly unemployment rate recorded here since new labor market area configurations became effective with January 2000 data was 8.7 percent in February 2005. The lowest was 1.9 percent in August 2000. The highest June unemployment rate recorded in this area was 3.7 percent of this year. The lowest June rate on record was 2.5 percent in 2000.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

Fifteen percent of insured claimants were separated from other services, and 15 percent were separated from retail trade. Fifteen percent of claimants were separated from manufacturing, eight percent came from healthcare and social assistance, eight percent were from construction and the remainder came from other industries. Fifty-three percent of the claimants were female. Forty-one percent were the primary wage earners in their families, 35 percent were secondary wage earners, and 24 percent lived alone. Eighty-two percent said they were on temporary layoff, 0 percent were permanently laid off, while 18 percent left their jobs voluntarily. One hundred percent had at least a high school education and 53 percent had some post-secondary education. Eighteen percent of the insured claimants were veterans.

Closings/Layoffs

Washburn and Doughty Associates temporarily laid off 65 employees after a fire destroyed the boatyard. 35 employees were kept on to complete one of the tug boats. The company expects to be building boats again in 3 months time. (Mainebiz Daily, July 15, 2008)

Expansions

The Ocean Classroom Foundation will relocate its administrative offices to Boothbay Harbor from Rhode Island, and hire five administrative personnel locally. The organization maintains an office in Rockland, and currently employs about 40. The move will facilitate an expansion of the Foundation’s semester-at-sea programs. Its three marine research schooners host thousands of high-school and college students annually. (Mainebiz Daily, August 27, 2007)

Future Economic Development Projects

Hodgdon Yachts plans to invest about $1 million to expand in Richmond. The company will manufacture yacht interiors to be shipped via truck to their final destination. Hodgdon initially plans to bring in 15-17 workers, and hire an additional 35 within two years. Company headquarters will remain in East Boothbay. (Kennebec Journal, March 10, 2008)

Maine Marine Manufacturing, a subsidiary of Hodgdon Yachts, located in East Boothbay, launched the experimental 83-foot Mark V1 on January 11, 2008. The boat was built in partnership with the University of Maine’s Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center, funded by Office of Naval Research for the U.S. Special Operations Command. The size and scope of the potential contract to replace the Navy’s 20 boat fleet is uncertain, but if the contract went to Maine Marine Manufacturing the current workforce of 80 could double or triple. (Portland Press Herald, January 11, 2008) As of March, 2008 the company was considering expansion onto a 16-acre parcel on the Penobscot River, in Hampden. (Portland Press Herald, March 28, 2008)

Washburn & Doughty Associates, Inc., of East Boothbay, officially pulled out of negotiations to lease part of Mitchell Field in Harpswell to accommodate a planned expansion of the boatyard. Instead, the company will expand on a parcel of land adjacent to their existing facility. Washburn & Doughty Associates builds tugboats, commercial steel and aluminum fishing and research vessels, and is expanding to meet a backlog of orders. Numerous jobs will be created as a result of this expansion. (Brunswick Times Record, October 24 and April 30, 2007)
Camden LMA

Area Definition

The Camden LMA is made up of Appleton, Camden, Hibberts Gore, Hope, Lincolnville, North Haven, Union, Vinalhaven, and Washington.

The local area unemployment rate fell to 4.2 percent in June from 4.5 percent in May. Resident employment increased by 590 to 8,140. Unemployment was up by 10, and the resident civilian labor force grew by 590. Over the year resident employment was down by 10, and the civilian labor force was larger by 30. The unemployment rate was up from the June 2007 rate of 3.7 percent.

The highest monthly unemployment rate recorded here since new labor market area configurations became effective with January 2000 data was February’s unemployment rate of 6.5 percent. The lowest was 1.7 percent in August 2000. The lowest June rate on record was 2.1 percent in 2000.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INSURED UNEMPLOYED

Eleven percent of insured claimants were separated from accommodation and food services, 11 percent were from construction, 14 percent from healthcare and social services, 11 percent from retail trade, 22 percent were separated from manufacturing, and the remaining 21 percent came from other industries.

Fifty-two percent of insured claimants were male. Forty-three percent were primary wage earners in their families, 45 percent lived alone, and 12 percent were secondary wage earners. Seventy-four percent said they were on a temporary layoff, 12 percent were on permanent layoff, and 14 percent left their jobs voluntarily. Eighty-six percent had at least a high school education and 33 percent had some post-secondary education. Five percent of the insured claimants were veterans.

IntriCon, owner of the former Tibbetts Industries in Camden, plans to transfer an unspecified number of production jobs to its Singapore plant over the next 12-18 months. The Minnesota company intends to invest in research and development in Camden, and eventually add back a number of jobs. (MaineCoastNow.com, April 26, 2008)


FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Pop!Tech 2007 (www.poptech.com) was held at the Opera House in Camden. Roughly 650 guests and speakers from around the world paid $3,500 to attend the annual event, to explore “major trends shaping our future, the social impact of new technologies and new approaches to addressing the world’s most significant challenges.” The autumn conference has been held annually for the past 11 years. (Village Soup, October 24, 2007)
Rockland LMA

Area Definition

The Rockland LMA includes Cushing, Owls Head, Rockland, Rockport, South Thomaston, Thomaston, and Warren.

The Rockland area unemployment rate fell to 4.4 percent in June from 4.5 percent in May. Resident employment rose by 640, while the civilian labor force gained 660. The number of unemployed grew by 10. Over the year, resident employment was up by 70 and the civilian labor force grew by 110. Unemployment was up by 30 from last year, resulting in the higher unemployment rate of 4.4 percent compared to 4.1 percent in 2007.

The highest monthly unemployment rate recorded here since new labor market area configurations became effective with January 2000 data was 6.5 percent in February 2008; the lowest was 1.9 percent in August 2000. The lowest June rate on record was 2.3 percent in 2000.

CLOSINGS/LAYOFFS (past 12 months)

Great Eastern Mussel Farms Inc. in Tenants Harbor (located in the Saint George LMA) stated it would be shutting down operations and lay off 40 people. The company is closing due to regulatory challenge and greater competition from Canada. (Mainebiz Daily, July 21, 2008)

VillageSoup of Rockland has acquired Courier Publications. VillageSoup plans on eliminating 26 positions primarily from Courier publications. (Mainebiz Daily, June 17, 2008)

Shore Village Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Rockland will close, once the residents are re-located. An unspecified number of employees will be displaced by the closure. (Mainebiz Daily, May 2, 2008)

The Rockport office of McGraw-Hill publishing company will close, eliminating five full-time positions. The closure is part of McGraw-Hill’s corporate-wide restructuring to reduce costs. (Village Soup, January 14, 2008)

EXPANSIONS (past 12 months)

Lowe’s Home Improvement opened a 116,000 square-foot store in Thomaston May 1, creating 120 new jobs, 84 of which are full-time. (Bangor Daily News, April 30, 2008)

Maine Eastern Railroad announced double-digit growth in ridership in 2007. Final tallies for the season show more than 17,000 passenger seats were filled, representing a 26 percent increase over 2006. While 10 percent of the increased ridership was attributed to Maine Eastern’s expanded 2007 schedule, the remaining

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INSURED UNEMPLOYED

Seven percent of insured claimants were separated from accommodation and food services, 8 percent were separated from construction, 8 percent were from administrative and waste services, 9 percent from wholesale trade, and 25 percent from healthcare and social assistance. The remaining 43 percent originated in other industries.

Sixty-one percent of the insured claimants were female. Forty-six percent were their families’ primary wage earners, 23 percent lived alone, and 31 percent were secondary wage earners. Sixty-seven percent said they were on a temporary layoff, 18 percent were on a permanent layoff, and 15 percent left their jobs voluntarily. Ninety-one percent had at least a high school education and 28 percent had at least some post-secondary education. Thirteen percent of the insured claimants were veterans.
Expansions
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16 percent is credited to an increased awareness of, and a renewed interest in, passenger rail. (MaineCoastNow.com, December 9, 2007)

FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Boston Financial Data Services, Inc. has signed a lease agreement with Rockland Harbor Park LLC. The company expects to hire 100 people in 2008 and expect to employ up to 250 within the next two years. (Maine & Company, June 05, 2008)

Steel-Pro, Inc. would like expand its Rockland production facility to meet increased demand for the stainless-steel tanks manufactured by the company. If incorporated into the region’s Pine Tree Zone, the expansion could add eight new jobs and $360,000 to the company’s existing payroll. The $1 million investment would be used to purchase new robotic equipment, expand the building, and train workers. (Maine Coast Now.com, May 12, 2008)

The Rockland City Council approved the sale of three Main Street properties to the owner of Maine Boats, Homes, and Harbors, Inc which will move its magazine and internet business from Camden. (MaineCoastNow.com March 10, 2008)

Atlantis Maritime, of Rockport, has been certified by the Pine Tree Zone program, making it eligible for State tax incentives resulting in job creation. The company is a yacht management and manufacturing company utilizing composites technology, sales and service of Hunt Yachts, and Volvo Penta. The company would like to add 14 new jobs as a result of their development plans. (Village Soup, January 30, 2008)

Eastern Maine Development Corporation wants to lease space at Thomaston Academy to create the Thomaston Marine System Center. The Center would offer boat-building and marine technology classes in collaboration with the Landing School of Boatbuilding and Design, Kennebec Valley Community College, and the American Boats and Yachts Council. Maine Maritime Academy has also been approached about offering classes at the Center. (Maine CoastNOW.com, August 13, 2007)

Many Flags/One Campus is a unique and innovative educational model planned for the mid-coast region that would co-locate on one campus a regional high school, a vocational/technical school, a higher education center, and a Marine Systems Center of Excellence. This collaborative effort includes Kennebec Valley Community College, University College at Thomaston, the University of Maine Hutchinson Center, the Maine Community College System, the Landing School, other Marine Trades educators, MSAD 5, MSAD 50, and the Mid-Coast School of Technology Region 8. The campus could open in 2011, following site and funding acquisition, voter approval, and permitting. (10/2006) In August 2007, a $240,000 grant from the North Star Alliance was given to the steering committee of the program. (Mainebiz Daily, August 17, 2007) Four community meetings are scheduled for October and November 2007 to discuss the model. (Bangor Daily News, September 20, 2007)

Skowhegan LMA

Area Definition


The June local area unemployment rate dropped to 7.1 percent from 8.0 percent in May. Resident employment increased by 470 to 14,420. The number of unemployed was down by 110 at 1,100. The resident civilian labor force expanded by 360.

Over the year resident employment was up by 140, and civilian labor force grew by 250. The number of unem-
Skowhegan LMA
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Employed rose by 110. Last June 14,280 local residents were employed, 990 were unemployed, and the local jobless rate stood at 6.5 percent.

The highest monthly unemployment rate recorded here since new labor market area configurations became effective with January 2000 data was 9.9 percent in February 2005. The lowest was 3.8 percent recorded in August 2000. The highest June unemployment rate recorded in this area was 8.0 percent in 2003. The lowest June rate on record was 4.3 percent in 2000.

![Graph showing the number of residents employed over time.](image)

Seventeen percent of insured claimants were separated from construction, 17 percent came from retail trade, 10 percent came from agriculture, forestry, and fishing, 8 percent from manufacturing, 8 percent came from accommodation and food services and the remaining 40 percent came from other industries.

Sixty percent of the insured claimants were male. Fifty-seven percent were their families’ primary wage earner, 27 percent lived alone, and 16 percent were secondary wage earners. Sixty-one percent of the insured claimants reported they were on temporary layoff, 18 percent were on permanent layoff, and 20 percent left their jobs voluntarily. Eighty-two percent had at least a high school education and 23 percent had some post-secondary education. Five percent of the insured claimants were veterans.

### FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

**Waste Management** announced plans to build a gas-to-energy plant at its Norridgewock landfill that could provide electrical power for up to 4,000 homes. The $3-4 million facility could be online by year-end, and would add two jobs to the existing 20 on-site. (Morning Sentinel, January 26, 2008)

**Backyard Farms** announced an expansion that could represent an additional $125 million investment in Maine. Long-term plans include three more production greenhouses, a research and development facility, and a bio-mass co-generation power plant. The company hopes to begin construction of its second greenhouse north of the existing Madison site in the Spring of 2008. Currently employing 90 year-round workers, Backyard Farms could grow to 300 within five years. (Blethen Maine News Service, November 19, 2007)

**Maine Woods Pellet Company** in Athens began producing industrial-grade wood pellets in April. The mill will employ 18 and another 22 will work in the woods. Other wood-pellet mills operate in East Corinth and Ashland, and a fourth will begin production by late fall. (Morning Sentinel, April 30, 2008)

Construction has begun on a new **Customs and Border Protection Agency** port-of-entry station in Sandy Bay Township, near Jackman. The $26 million project is scheduled for completion in 2010. (Bangor Daily News, March 26, 2008)

**Tractor Supply Company** opened its first Maine store in the former Kmart building in Skowhegan. The store opened September 12, 2007 with 22 full and part-time employees. (Morning Sentinel, September 7, 2007)

**Redington-Fairview Hospital** will begin construction in September of a $15 million, 65,000 square-foot Medical Office Center. The office complex will be connected to the hospital via an enclosed walkway. The Center is scheduled to open by fall 2009. (Morning Sentinel, August 1, 2007)
Waldoboro LMA
Area Definition

The Waldoboro LMA includes Alna, Bremen, Bristol, Damariscotta, Friendship, Jefferson, Monhegan Plantation, Newcastle, Nobleboro, South Bristol, and Waldoboro.

Waldoboro’s June unemployment rate was unchanged from May’s rate of 4.4 percent. Resident employment rose by 440 to 9,700, the civilian labor force gained 450, and the number of unemployed rose by 20.

Over the year resident employment was up by 40, and unemployment was up by 50 from 390. The civilian labor force was up by 90 from June 2007. The unemployment rate was lower at 3.9 percent.

The highest monthly unemployment rate recorded here since new labor market area configurations became effective with January 2000 data was 5.3 percent reported this March 2008. The lowest was 1.9 percent in August 2000. The lowest June rate recorded was 2.3 percent in 2000.

Twelve percent of insured claimants were separated from construction, 12 percent came from other services, 17 percent were separated from administrative and waste services, 12 percent from manufacturing, and 14 percent were from retail trade. The remaining 33 percent came from other industries.

Sixty-four percent of the claimants were male. Fifty-one percent were their families’ primary wage earners, 23 percent lived alone, and 26 percent were secondary wage earners. Seventy-one percent of insured claimants said they were on a temporary layoff, 19 percent left their jobs voluntarily, and 10 percent were on permanent layoff. Eighty-six percent had at least a high school education and 35 percent had at least some post-secondary education. Twelve percent of the insured claimants were veterans.

Fieldcrest Manor, a nursing home in Waldoboro, will close once its residents are re-located. Approximately 44 employees will be affected by the closure. (Mainebiz Daily, May 2, 2008)
Waterville LMA
Area Definition

The Waterville LMA includes Albion, Benton, Clinton, Fairfield, Oakland, Unity Unorganized, Waterville, and Winslow.

Waterville’s June unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.4 percent. Resident employment rose by 270 to 21,550. The number of unemployed was unchanged at 1,230. The resident civilian labor force expanded by 270.

Over the year resident employment increased by 160 from 21,390 in June 2007. Unemployment grew by 110, and the unemployment rate was up from the year ago at 5.0 percent. The civilian labor force gained 260.

The highest monthly unemployment rate recorded here since new labor market area configurations became effective with January 2000 data was 7.0 percent in February 2003; the lowest was 2.9 percent in August 2000. The highest June unemployment rate recorded in this area was 5.8 percent in 2003. The lowest June rate on record was 3.5 percent in 2000.

CLOSINGS/LAYOFFS (past 12 months)

Brooks Pharmacy closed in Waterville, as a result of being acquired by Rite Aide Corp. All Brooks employees accepted positions at Rite Aide at 211 Main Street. (Morning Sentinel, August 16, 2007)

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INSURED UNEMPLOYED

Twenty-six percent of insured claimants were separated from construction, 11 percent were separated from accommodation and food services, 10 percent came from manufacturing, 12 percent were from retail trade, and 15 percent came from healthcare and social assistance. The remaining 26 percent were separated from other industries.

Sixty percent of the insured claimants were male. Fifty-four percent of the claimants were primary wage earners in their families, 31 percent lived alone, and 15 percent were secondary wage earners. Sixty-one percent said they were on a temporary layoff, 21 percent left their jobs voluntarily, and 18 percent were on a permanent layoff. Eighty-three percent had at least a high school education and 30 percent had at least some post-secondary education. Ten percent of the insured claimants were veterans.

75 full and part-time jobs. (Morning Sentinel, April 10, 2008)

Mid-State Machine Products celebrated the “Grand Opening” of their $13 million, 76,000 square foot facility located in the former Wyandotte Mill in Waterville. This branch is now known as Mid-State Machine Products, West Facility. Currently 60 workers with a total payroll of $3.5 million are employed at the site (average salary of $44,000 per year plus $14,000 in benefits). Forty to fifty additional workers may be hired in the near future. This project was made possible through a $100 million contract with Honeywell International to build parts for the AGT-1500 engine of the Abrams M1-A1/2 battle tank. (Kennebec Journal, September 23, 2007)

EXPANSIONS (past 12 months)

River Valley HomeCare began operation in downtown Fairfield, bringing 30 jobs to their Main Street office. The new company resulted as a merger between Inland HomeCare and Sebasti-cook Valley HomeCare. The company employs clinical supervisors, therapists, and home health aides. (Morning Sentinel, February 21, 2008)

T.J. Maxx opened a new Waterville store in April, creating approximately
Inland Hospital of Waterville was recognized as the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year for 2007, for their commitment to the community in the form of capital investment, community-building activities, monetary donations, and volunteer activities of employees. (Morning Sentinel, March 5, 2008)

New businesses proposals before the Waterville Planning Board include: a new KFC/Taco Bell by Conifer Industries, a 21-unit apartment building owned by a subsidiary of the Waterville Housing Authority, and three townhouse-type buildings to house 90 Thomas College students. (Morning Sentinel, January 31, 2008)

The Waterville City Council voted unanimously (7-0) to sell the former C.F. Hathaway Building to Paul Boghossian, a Rhode Island developer who will convert the complex into a housing and commercial center, tentatively named the Hathaway Creative Center. Mr. Boghossian is working in partnership with Niemann Capital LLC to develop the site. The $105,000 building permit for renovations to the building was the most costly permit ever issued by the city. (Morning Sentinel, December 12, 2007)